



ALONG THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS

LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS
HISTORICAL TRAIL
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Mapa das Linhas de Torres Vedras e sua ligação com Lisboa nos anos de 1810 e 1811.
In Luz Sarmento - História da Guerra Civil e do estabelecimento do governo parlamentar em Portugal. Lisboa Imprensa Nacional, 1874, T. 3

In 1810, the peninsula to the north of Lisbon was the setting for the construction of one of the most effective defensive systems in the world: the Lines of Torres Vedras. In the expectation of a third Napoleonic invasion, whose prime objective would be the capture of the capital, three lines of a total of 152 fortifications were constructed in secret across an 85 km stretch of hilly terrain between the river Tagus and the Atlantic Ocean. The third line in Oeiras was to facilitate the safe embarkation of British troops, if such proved necessary. In little over a year, with the tireless support of the local population, the hills became mountains: impregnable fortresses that rose up in front of Napoleon's army and finally defeated them.

Travel through time along the six trails that cross hills and valleys, immersed in history and recalling its protagonists, and discover a unique part of Portugal's heritage.

The Lines of Torres Vedras Historical Trail is a joint project of the municipalities of Arruda dos Vinhos, Loures, Mafra, Sobral de Monte Agraço, Torres Vedras and Vila Franca de Xira, co-financed by European Economic Area (EEA) grants. This project aims to conserve, restore and valorise a significant number of the fortifications along the Lines of Torres Vedras, as well as implanting an inter-municipality network of Heritage and Visitors' Centres.

TRAILS



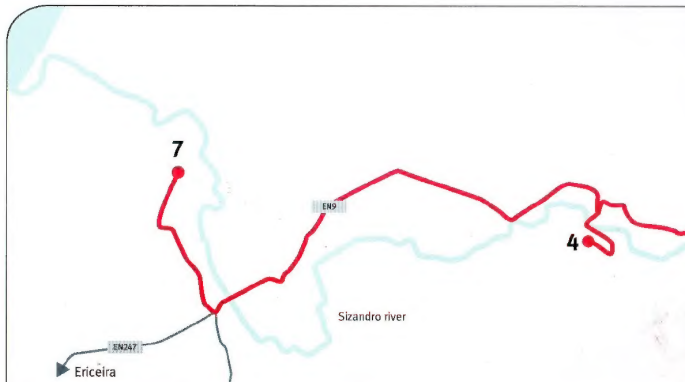
- TRAIL TORRES VEDRAS - ALONG THE 1ST LINE
- TRAIL WELLINGTON
- TRAIL THE DEFENCE OF THE TAGUS
- TRAIL THE GREAT PASSES
- TRAIL THE JUNCTION OF THE LINES
- TRAIL FROM THE PALACE TO THE ATLANTIC
- HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE FOR THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS
- ▲ VIEWPOINT



TORRES VEDRAS – ALONG THE 1ST LINE

Set aside a whole day – a special day – to explore the fortifications in the municipality which gave the Lines its name. A trail that starts in the city streets, on the hills of St. Vincent and the ancient medieval castle, which was converted for use as one of the fortifications. Visit the comprehensive “Peninsular War” exhibition in the Leonel

Trindade Municipal Museum. To the south of the city, there are more forts to visit along the Catefica hills. These overlook Runa and Dois Portos, where two important skirmishes between the opposing forces took place. Finally, pay a visit to the fortifications between the city and the sea, following the meandering course of the river Sizandro.



HOW TO GET THERE



- From Lisbon: take the A8. There are 2 junctions for Torres Vedras: North (norte) and South (sul).
- From Porto: take the A1, then the A17 and, finally, the A8. There are 2 junctions for Torres Vedras: North (norte) and South (sul).
- From Santarém: take the A15, then the A8 (signposted for Torres Vedras). There are 2 junctions for Torres Vedras: North (norte) and South (sul).



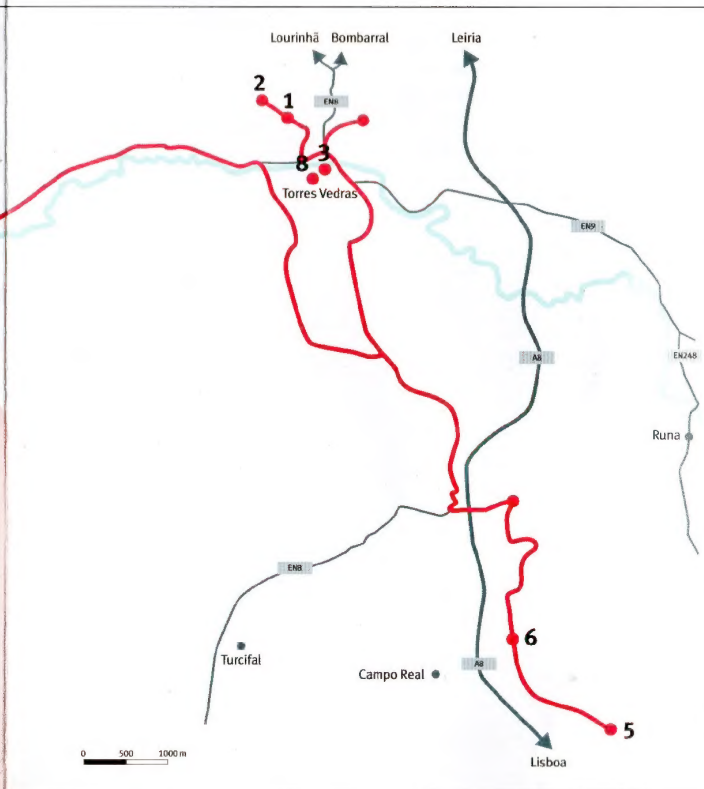
- From Campo Grande in Lisbon (next to the metro station of the same name). There is a service every 30 minutes, via the motorway.



- Take the “Linha do Oeste” from Lisbon. This runs from the stations at Entrecampos or Rossio as far as Cacém, where you will have to change for Torres Vedras / Figueira da Foz.

VISIT

1. ST. VINCENT'S FORT [20-22]
39°5'59.75"N; 09°15'53.64"W
2. FORT OLHEIROS [23]
39°6'11.21"N; 09°16'12.92"W
3. TORRES VEDRAS CASTLE [27]
39°5'40.68"N; 09°15'40.06"W
4. FORT GRILO [30]
39°05'10.97"N; 09°19'21.40"W
5. FORT ARCHEIRA [128]
39°2' 5.23"N; 09°13'6.13"W
6. FORT FEITEIRA [129]
39°2'39.76"N; 09°13'55.34"W
7. FORT PASSO [111]
39°05'39.31"N; 09°22'45.32"W
8. MUNICIPAL MUSEUM
39°05'24.23"N; 09°15'32.20"W



WELLINGTON

At the heart of the Lines, visit some of the most notable places connected to the presence of the Commander of the Anglo-Portuguese army, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington – from Quinta dos Freixos, his headquarters, to the Great Redoubt at Alqueidão. This fort boasts an observatory offering superb views over the landscape of the 1st and 2nd Lines, making it the best position for his Command Post, from where he could easily observe enemy manoeuvres. Along the Alqueidão circuit, visit a group of other

fortifications constructed to defend the main Lisbon road. Carry on to the Serra do Socorro – the signal station which was the communications centre for the Lines. Visit the Heritage and Visitors' Centre and the hermitage dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Continue to the forts at Enxara, which were garrisoned by Spanish troops under the command of Marquis La Romana. Don't miss the Visitors' Centre in the main square in Sobral de Monte Agraço, where the Battle of Sobral took place.

VISIT

1. FORT ALQUEIDÃO [14]/
VIEWPOINT
38°59'13,472"N; 09°09'04,427"W
2. FORT MACHADO [15]
38°58'56,614"N; 09°09'17,404"W
3. FORT SIMPLÍCIO [17]
38°59'01,923"N; 09°09'05,403"W
4. FORT GRANDE [28]
38°59'31,19"N; 09°13'25,62"W
5. FORT PEQUENO [29]
38°59'11,90"N; 09°13'11,20"W
6. FORT NOVO [152]
38°59'34,680"N; 09°08'46,744"W
7. MILITARY ROAD
38°59'09,290"N; 09°08'55,620"W
8. SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRAÇO
HERITAGE CENTRE
39°01'07,134"N; 09°09'05,520"W
9. SERRA DO SOCORRO VISITOR'S
CENTRE AND HERMITAGE /
VIEWPOINT
39°01'03,32"N; 09°13'31,44"W

HOW TO GET THERE



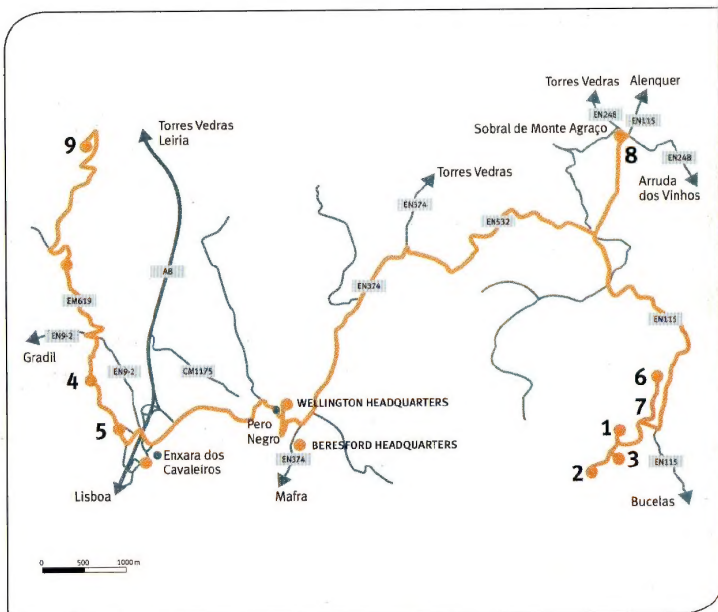
- From Lisbon: take the A8, coming off at the Sobral de Monte Agraço exit.
- From Porto: take the A1, coming off at Carregado. Then take the A10 to Arruda dos Vinhos and follow the N248 to Sobral de Monte Agraço.
- From Faro: take the Via do Infante, then the A2 and A12 (the Vasco da Gama bridge), then the A8, coming off at Sobral de Monte Agraço, following the N374 and then the N248-1 until you reach the town. Alternatively, after the N374, take the EM532 and the N115.



- Boa Viagem, from Campo Grande in Lisbon – Sobral de Monte Agraço



- Take the “Linha do Oeste” from Lisbon, getting off at Pero Negro (then by taxi for the 8 km to Sobral de Monte Agraço)



THE DEFENCE OF THE TAGUS

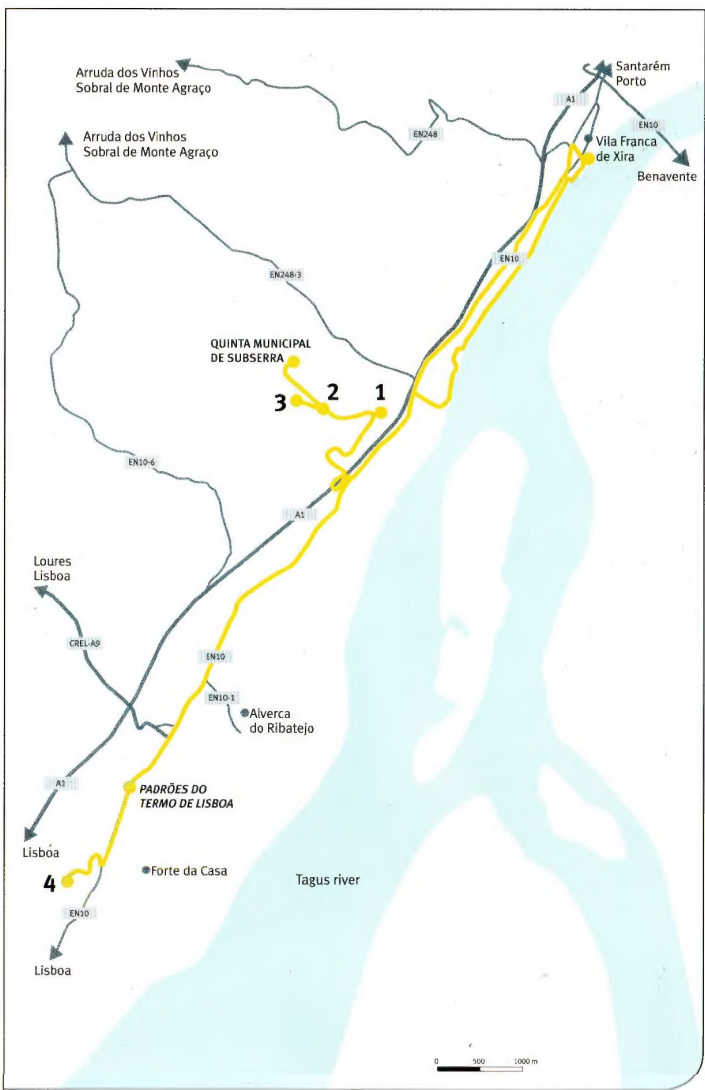
Visit the spot where the 1st Line starts in the waters of the majestic river Tagus next to the picturesque town of Alhandra. A flotilla of British gunboats and corvettes guarded the south bank of the river, thus preventing the enemy from crossing, as well as watching over the Royal Highway, which ran along its north bank. The defence of the river was linked to the fortifications constructed along the sierra to the north of Alhandra. See the Monument to the Lines of Torres Vedras, finished in 1883, perched on the region's most beautiful viewpoint, and follow the trail between the military works along the crest of the Subserra hills, with the Visitors' Centre in nearby Fort Casa.

VISIT

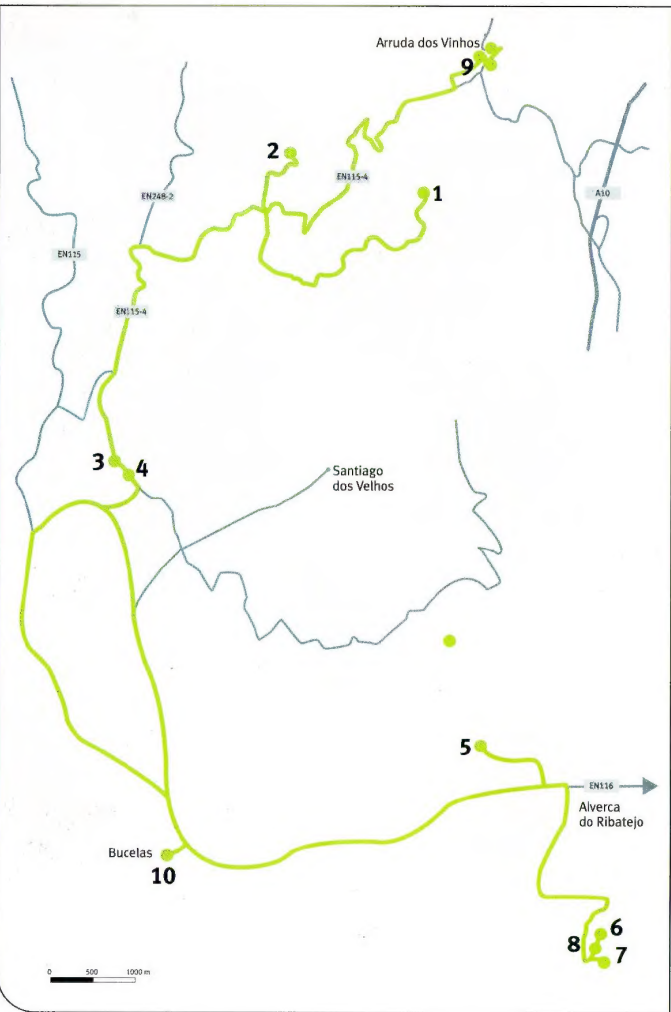
- 1. MONUMENT TO THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS / VIEWPOINT
38°55'28,362"N; 09°0'58,380"W
- 2. SUBSERRA FORT NO. 1 [114]
38°55'29,236"N; 09°1'25,418"W
- 3. NEW BATTERY OF SUBSERRA [114Å]
38°55'32,658"N; 09°1'40,051"W
- 4. HERITAGE CENTRE / FORT CASA [38]
38°52'24,892"N; 09°3'26,672"W

HOW TO GET THERE

- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A1, getting off at Vila Franca de Xira.
- From Faro, take the Via do Infante, then the A2 and the A12 to Lisbon, then the A1 to Vila Franca de Xira.
- Boa Viagem bus company from Lisbon.
- CP on the Azambuja line, getting off at Vila Franca de Xira, Alhandra or Alverca.



THE GREAT PASSES



Start your trip from the centre of Arruda dos Vinhos, a country town nestled between imposing hills. Visit the Heritage and Visitors' Centre in the Morgado Cultural Centre. It is then just a short walk to Fort Cego and Fort Carvalha, which watched over the Arruda valley. The trail continues by way of the redoubts along the Alrota sierra, with its impressive views,

to the town of Bucelas, capital of "Arinto" wine, home to some delicious traditional almond tarts and proud of its Visitors' Centre. Passing on, you can see the fortifications on the hill at Aguiera from Fort Arpim, as well as gaze across the plains beside the Tagus and appreciate the ambitious scope of the Great Passes defence system.

HOW TO GET THERE

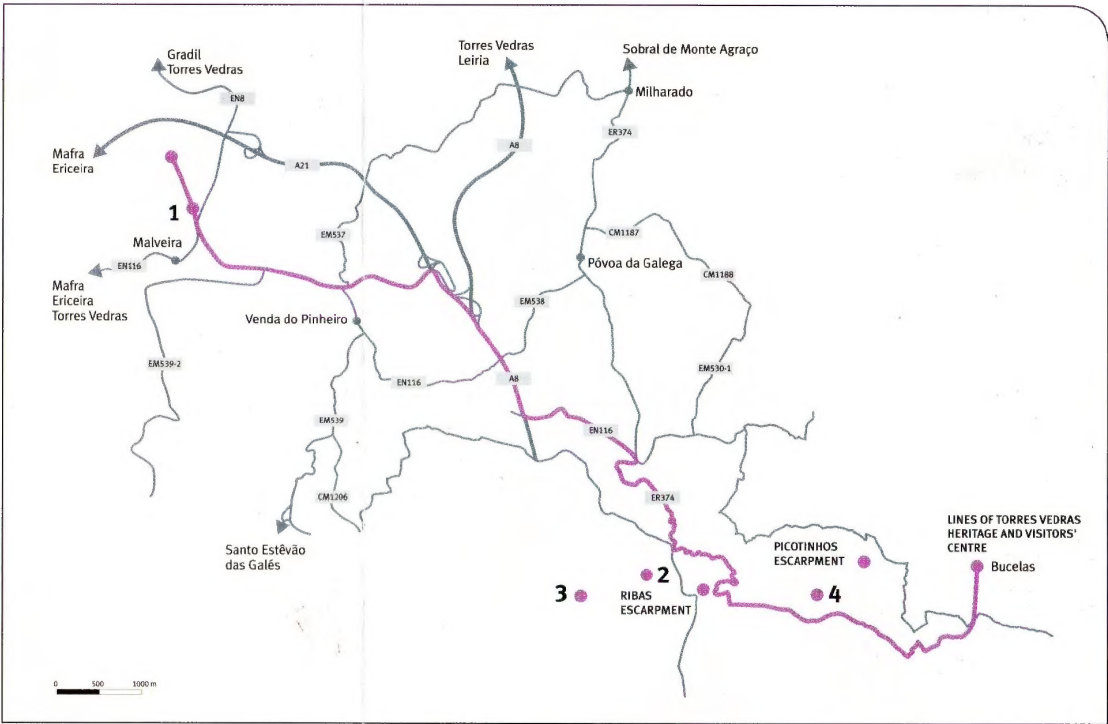
- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A1, then the A10, getting off at Arruda dos Vinhos.
- From Faro take the Via do Infante, then the A2 until the A13 (in the direction of Santarém), then the A10 to Arruda dos Vinhos.
- Boa Viagem bus company from Lisbon.
- CP on the Azambuja line, getting off at Vila Franca de Xira, Alhandra or Alverca.

VISIT

- 1. FORT CEGO [9]
38°58'08"N; 09°05'09"W
- 2. FORT CARVALHA [10]
38°58'22"N; 09°06'13"W
- 3. AJUDA GRANDE REDOUBT [18]
38°56'17.07"N; 09°7'43.56"W
- 4. AJUDA PEQUENO REDOUBT [19]
38°56'24.22"N; 09°7'51.39"W
- 5. FORT ARPIM [125]
38°54'43.63"N; 09°4'56.18"W
- 6. FORT AGUIEIRA [40]
38°54'1,472"N; 09°4'20,531"W
- 7. FORT PORTELA GRANDE [41]
38°53'52,799"N; 09°4'17,320"W
- 8. FORT PORTELA PEQUENO [42]
38°53'56,920"N; 09°4'21,771"W
- 9. LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS
HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE (ARRUDA DOS VINHOS)
38°59'03"N; 09°04'41"W
- 10. RHLT HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE (BUCELAS)
38°54'10.14"N; 09°7'16.29"W

THE JUNCTION OF THE LINES

The area around Malveira and Venda do Pinheiro is still a major road junction. This is where the Royal Highways to Lisbon from Torres Vedras and Mafra, used by both armies, once crossed. The strategic concept of the Lines was based on the control of these access routes to Lisbon: Napoleon's army would advance along them and the Anglo-Portuguese army would need them to retreat to the lines of fortifications. The road network and the sharp contours of the region resulted in one of the largest concentrations of redoubts in this defensive system. Visit Fort Feira, with its restored magazine and deep trenches, not far from the town square where the popular weekly market is held. All the hills along the road between Malveira and Montachique were selected for the 2nd Line. Continue your tour by heading towards Loures, visiting the forts and escarpments along the Ribas sierra, and then on to the Montachique Municipal Park, where the beauty of nature and a redoubt atop a rocky outcrop await you.



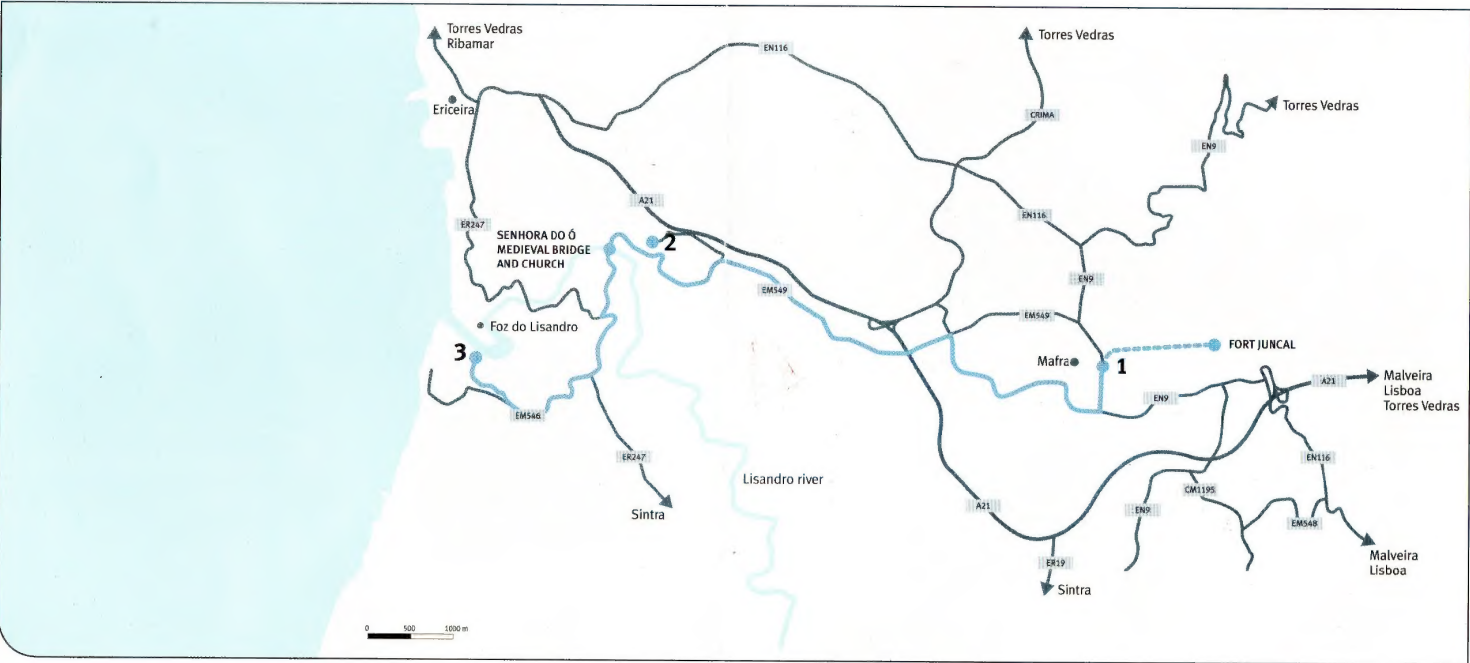
VISIT

- 1. FORT FEIRA [66]
38°56'08,78"N; 09°15'18,31"W
- 2. MOSQUEIRO REDOUBT [57]
38°53'55.85"N; 09°10'57.49"W
- 3. MONTACHIQUE REDOUBT [55]
38°54'20.02"N; 09°11'7.71"W
- 4. RIBAS REDOUBT [51]
38°53'43.54"N; 09°09'43.47"W

HOW TO GET THERE

- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A8, getting off at Malveira.
- From Faro, take the Via do Infante, then the A12 to Lisbon and the A8 to Malveira.
- Mafrense, Barraqueiro, Isidoro Duarte.
- CP on the Linha do Oeste, alighting at Malveira.

FROM THE PALACE TO THE ATLANTIC



The National Palace of Mafra is the perfect place to begin a tour of the 2nd Line, leaving the town and heading towards the coast. This splendid edifice

was the stage for important events during the Napoleonic Invasions and served as headquarters for the English and the French at different times during this

period. Visit the Lines of Torres Vedras Heritage and Visitors' Centre in the south cloister of the palace. Several redoubts were constructed in the "Tapada" (the King's hunting grounds). These include Fort Juncal, which is still home to the Infantry School. At the southernmost point of the 2nd Line, between Mafra and Ericeira, visit Fort Zambujal. This fortification has a unique footprint, rediscovered by recent excavations, and boasts a superb view over the valley of the river Lizandro. Carry on to where the principal Line of fortifications ended on the Atlantic coast.

Fort São Julião was a signal station, communicating with the ships of the English fleet and keeping watch over the sea.

HOW TO GET THERE

- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A8 and then the A21, getting off at Mafra Este.
- From Faro, take the Via do Infante, then the A12 to Lisboa, then the A21, getting off at Mafra Este.
- Mafrense.

VISIT

- 1. MAFRA HERITAGE CENTRE (NACIONAL PALACE)
38°56'12,54"N; 09°19'36,45"W
- 2. FORT ZAMBUJAL [95]
38°56'57,74"N; 09°23'21,98"W
- 3. FORT SÃO JULIÃO [97]
38°56'13,55"N; 09°24'47,81"W

TOURIST OFFICES

ARRUDA DOS VINHOS

Centro Cultural do Morgado

GPS: 38°58'60"N; 09°04'40"W

TEL.: [+351] 263 974 004

E-MAIL: pturismo@cm-arruda.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Friday:

9 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm; Saturdays

and Sundays: 10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm;

Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays

LOURES

Pavilhão de Macau – Parque da Cidade

GPS: 38°49'36,50"N; 09°09'38,03"W

TELEPHONE: [+351] 211 151 509/ 10

E-MAIL: divisao_turismo@cm-loures.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

9 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm;

Closed weekends and Public Holidays

MAFRA

Palácio Nacional de Mafra – Torreão sul
Terreiro D. João V

GPS: 38°56'11,10"N; 09°19'37,28"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 817 170

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-mafra.pt

OPENING HOURS: Every day: 9:30 pm – 1 pm /
2:30 pm – 6 pm

ERICEIRA

Rua Dr. Eduardo Burnay, 46

GPS: 38°57'46,50"N; 09°25'01,00"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 863 122

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-mafra.pt

OPENING HOURS: Every day: 10 am – 6 pm

SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRAÇO

Praça Dr. Eugénio Dias, 12

GPS: 39°01'07,134"N; 09°09'05,520"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 942296

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-sobral.pt

TORRES VEDRAS

Rua 9 de Abril

GPS: 39°05'29,13"N; 09°15'31,87"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 310 483

E-MAIL: postoturismo@cm-tvedras.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Saturday:

10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm;

Public Holidays: 10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

SANTA CRUZ

Rua da Azenha – Azenha de Santa Cruz

GPS: 39°08'01,80"N; 09°22'59,23"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 937 524

E-MAIL: postoturismosantacruz@cm-tvedras.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday:

10 am – 1 pm / 2:30 pm – 7 pm;

15 June – 15 September: 10 am – 10 pm

VILA FRANCA DE XIRA

Praça Afonso de Albuquerque, 12

GPS: 38°57'13,055"N; 08°59'25,859"W

TEL.: [+351] 263 285 605

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-vfxira.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

10 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm;

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm;

Closed on Sundays and Public
Holidays

